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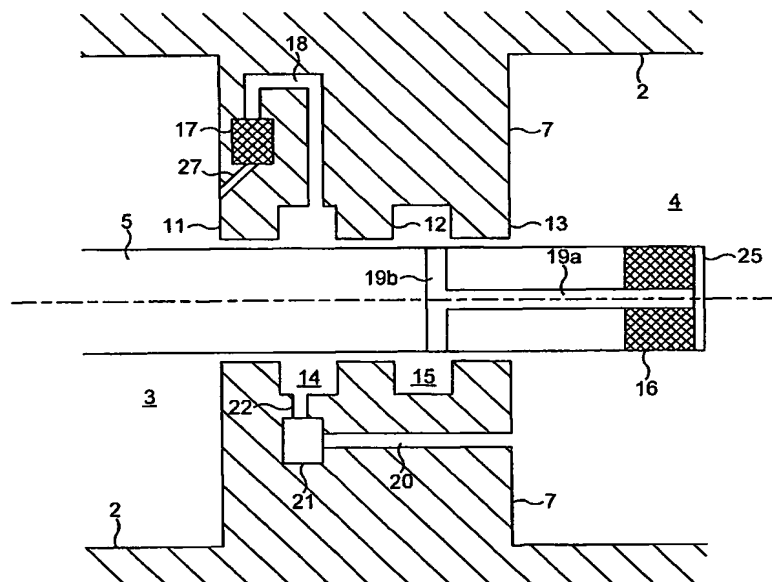
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(54) Title: VACUUM PUMP



(57) Abstract: A vacuum pump is provided comprising a pumping mechanism, a drive shaft for driving the pumping mechanism and a gear box connected to the drive shaft for rotating the drive shaft. Pressure control means are provided to define a path to allow fluid to flow from the pumping mechanism to the gear box in order to reduce the pressure difference therebetween. A reservoir is located within this path for collecting oil passing along the drive shaft from the gear box towards the pumping mechanism. In use, this enables pressurised fluid flowing from the pumping mechanism towards the gear box to urge oil which has collected in the reservoir, towards the gear box.

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